Extension of Trans-National Highway

1353. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that leaving a part of Eastern most territory of India beyond Silchar from the proposed four-lane transnational highway network (Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurastra) would pave the way for further consolidation of secessionist forces to claim the left out areas as their corridor;

(b) if so, whether any proposals there since been forpiulated to extend the network to this Eastern most corridor of India i.e., Chinese and Myanmar border along Arunachal Pradesh; and

(c) if not, what action is being contemplated to cover this isolated and backward national corridor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The eastern most part of India is connected with all weather roads.

(c) Does not arise.

Demand for Limitation of Bus Permits

1354. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the issue of stage carrier permit to vehicles without assessing the 'felt need' has created unwanted competition in Road Traffic and has increased accidents in certain States; and

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from State Governments demanding authority to limit the issue of permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per subsection 3(a) of Section 71 and 74 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the State Government with the prior approval of the Central Government can limit the number of Stage Carriages/Contract

carriages, generally or of any specified type, operating on city routes in towns with a population of not less than 5 lakhs. Accordingly, the State Governments are doing so keeping in view their basic requirements such as number of vehicles, road conditions, traffic conditions, vehicular pollution and other related aspects.

(b) The Government had received proposals from State Governments of Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Chandigarh Administration regarding limiting the number of contract carriages only.

Complaints against ITDC

1355. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of letters/memorandum/ appeals/complaints, have been received by his Ministry from the Members of Parliament, Trade Unions/Associations about the mismanagement, inefficiency, irregularities and corruption cases in ITDC as reported frequently in media during the last two years till 25th Nov., 1999; and

(b) if so, the details of . such letters/memorandum/appeals/ complaints etc. and the action taken on each of them against the erring officials/Directors of ITDC till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) ITDC is multi-unit, multi-location and multi-activity organisation having a large number of Trade Unions/Associations/Federations operating in various units/offices. A number of letters/memoranda are received from Members of Parliament as also from Unions/Associations in various offices/units of ITDC. The letters as and when received are dealt with and action taken as per due procedure.

Development of Durga Hatkoti Temple (H.P.) as Tourist Centre

1356. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrim centres which have been identified for promotion to tourism in the country, with details of their names and funds allocated for development of each pilgrim centre;